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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

EAST BERLIN MAYOR DISAPPEARS,
RUMORED IN SOVIET DISFAVOR

Fritz Ebert, mayor of East Berlin, has suddenly disappeared from Berlin to an unknown destination, supposedly on a vacation. Inquiry has been answered simply by the statement that Ebert would be taking it easy for a rather long time and that it was not known when he would return.

The mayor's sudden vacation has set rumors circulating that he has fallen into disfavor. It could very well be that the Soviets feel that Ebert has not succeeded in becoming a personality attractive to the Western Germans. Ernst Reuter, mayor of West Berlin, has continuously outshone him as a political personality, despite the fact that Ebert can capitalize on his father's good name.

It is rumored that mutiny broke out in the Sixth People's Police Battalion in Potsdam on 11 April. Of the 1,000 men in the battalion, 780 refused to participate in artillery training, to start after Easter. The mutineers refused to take the artillery course, saying that they had accepted positions as police, not as soldiers.

The Soviet liaison officer in the battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Arkhipov, immediately gave the alarm to Minister of Security Zaisser, demanding that the 30 officers of the battalion be removed and replaced with reliable men. Then, the entire battalion will be converted into a penal battalion. The Soviet supervisor is supposed to have said that the Potsdam unit is the worst in all Eastern Germany. Only 15 percent of the enlisted men belong to the Communist Party.

- 1 -

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SAYS SED UNSATISFACTORY TO SOVIET -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 98, 12 Apr 50

According to the Northwest German radio, Deputy Ministerpresident Walter Ulbricht, at a meeting with leading SED functionaries on 12 April, behind locked doors at President Pieck's residence in Eastern Berlin, said that Moscow is dissatisfied with the activity of the SED and considers it, along with the Western German Communist Party, the worst in Europe. This opinion of the Soviet government was the reason that the SED has still not been approved as a member of the Cominform.

Ulbricht returned a few days ago from a visit to the USSR, where he is believed to have held discussions with Soviet political leaders.

LDP OFFICIAL ACCUSED OF SABOTAGE -- Taegliche Rundschau, No 82, 6 Apr 50

The Regional League of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has instituted investigation proceedings against Mittelbach (fnu), chairman of the LDP fraction of the Leipzig Municipal Diet. Mittelbach, who has been accused of sabotaging the democratic land reform, was peremptorily dismissed by the municipal administration.

TO PROPOSE 2 NEW LEGAL HOLIDAYS -- Volksstimme, No 88, 15 Apr 50

The Office of Information announces that the Ministerial Council of the German Democratic Republic has resolved to propose to the People's Chamber that 8 May, the anniversary of the destruction by the Soviet Army of the fascist military forces and government, be known in the future as the Day of Liberation; and that 7 October, the anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic, be designated as the Day of the Republic. Both dates are to be celebrated as legal holidays.

TO RENAME STREETS IN SOVIET ZONE GERMANY -- Leipziger Volkszeitung, No 89, 16 Apr 50

The administration of the East German regime has ordered the renaming of streets, roads, and squares bearing militaristic, fascistic, or antidemocratic designations. The new names chosen will be those of persons, places, or concepts which are either closely related to the antifascist, democratic order or are traditional and deeply rooted in the popular mind. Names chosen should be primarily those of persons having distinguished themselves by achievements which have promoted progress.

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- 2 -

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